

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 19, 24, and 29-31 as follows.

Cancel claims 20-22, 25-28, 32-37, and 48-50.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating fluids by use of at least one bulk material comprising:

- a. flowing a fluid substantially through a plurality of bulk material beds, said fluid flowing from a bottom to a top of at least one bulk material bed;
- b. moving said at least one bulk material in at least one of said bulk material beds countercurrent to the flow of said fluid through at least one of said bulk material beds;
- c. delivering said at least one bulk material via a movable bulk material delivery mechanism for at least partially adding said at least one bulk material to said top of said at least one bulk material beds wherein said movable bulk material delivery mechanism is movable to a plurality of said bulk material beds so as to provide substantially even distribution of said at least one bulk material over a given bulk material bed until said at least one bulk material in said at least one bulk material bed has been properly exchanged; and,
- d. operating ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of said bulk material beds in parallel such that said removing and said adding of said at least one bulk material in ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of said bulk material beds occurs successively; and,
- e. said at least one bulk material bed includes a loading opening adapted to receive said at least one bulk material into said top of said bulk material bed, and at least one closeable unloading opening to controllably remove said at least one bulk material from said bottom of said at least one bulk material bed.

Claims 20-22. (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of treating fluids by use of at least one bulk material comprising:

- a. flowing a fluid substantially through a plurality of bulk material beds, said fluid flowing from a bottom to a top of at least one bulk material bed;
- b. moving said at least one bulk material in at least one of said bulk material beds countercurrent to the flow of said fluid through at least one of said bulk material beds;
- c. at least partially adding said at least one bulk material to said top of said at least one bulk material beds so as to provide substantially even distribution of said at least one bulk material over a given bulk material bed until said at least one bulk material in said at least one bulk material bed has been properly exchanged;
- d. operating a plurality of said bulk material beds in parallel such that said removing and said adding of said at least one bulk material in a plurality of said bulk material beds occurs successively;
- e. said at least one bulk material bed includes a loading opening adapted to receive said at least one bulk material into said top of said bulk material bed, and at least one closeable unloading opening to controllably remove said at least one bulk material from said bottom of said at least one bulk material bed;

f. including a movable bulk material delivery mechanism to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material to said ~~at least one~~ plurality of said bulk material beds;

g. said movable bulk material delivery mechanism includes a container, said container including a plurality of slit openings or linear openings that are used to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material ~~in~~ to said at least one plurality of said bulk material beds; and,

h. said container is movable on guides, and said container includes a trough with closeable unloading openings which are arranged over a trough floor in a surface distribution ~~or in a~~ linear arrangement.

Claims 25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim ~~[[28]]~~ 19, including a movable bulk material reception mechanism wherein said movable bulk material reception mechanism conveys at least a portion of said at least one bulk material to said movable bulk material delivery mechanism.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim ~~[[28]]~~ 19, including a movable bulk material reception mechanism wherein said movable bulk material delivery mechanism and said moveable bulk material reception mechanism are respectively moved over and under the same bulk material bed, and an amount of said at least one bulk material delivered to said bulk material bed is at least partially determined by an amount of said at least one bulk material portion which has been removed from said bulk material bed.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim ~~[[28]]~~ 29, wherein said flow of said fluid is interrupted or throttled by said movable bulk material delivery mechanism and/or said moveable bulk material reception mechanism.

Claims 32-37 (Canceled)

Claims 38-47 (Canceled)

Claims 48-50 (Canceled)